

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application;

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) An electronic apparatus having one or more functions on which use limitations can be imposed, comprising

a function executing unit for executing said ~~function(s)~~
one or more functions;

storage means for storing the contents of use limitations for said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions; and

limiting means for storing the contents of use limitations for said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions, derived from input use-permitting key information, in said storage means, and for referencing the contents of use limitations stored in said storage means to limit a function execution in said function executing unit.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The electronic apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the contents of use limitations for said functions are ~~the~~ a number of days or times of use allowed for use or ~~the~~ a time period allowed for use.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The electronic apparatus according to claim 2 further comprising

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second storage means for storing the number of days or times said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions has been used in said function executing unit;

said controlling means when requested to execute the ~~function(s)~~ said one or more functions in said function executing unit referencing the contents of use limitations stored in said storage means and said number of days or times of use stored in said second storage means to control the function execution in said function executing unit.

Claim 4. (Original) The electronic apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising

an operating input unit for inputting said use-permitting key information supplied from a source of use permission.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The electronic apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising

a bar code readout unit for reading said use-permitting key information, printed as a bar code, supplied from ~~said a~~ a source of use permission.

Claim 6. (Original) The electronic apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising

an infrared light receiving unit for receiving said use-permitting key information, acquired from a source of use

permission by wireless communication by a mobile terminal having a wireless communication function and an infrared ray communication function, said use-permitting key information being transmitted by infrared communication to the electronic apparatus.

Claim 7. (Original) The electronic apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising

receiving means for receiving said use-permitting key information transmitted from a source of use permission over a network.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) An electronic apparatus having one or more functions on which use limitations can be imposed, comprising

a function executing unit for executing said ~~function(s)~~
one or more functions;

storage means for storing the contents of use limitations for said function(s);

transmitting means for transmitting apparatus identifying information for identifying the electronic apparatus and a request for permission for using the electronic apparatus over a network to a server of a source of use permission;

receiving means for receiving the use-permitting key

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information transmitted from said server responsive to said request for using the electronic apparatus; and

controlling means for storing the contents of use limitations for said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions, derived from input use-permitting key information, received by said receiving means, and for referencing the contents of use limitations stored in said storage means to limit function execution in said function executing unit.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) The electronic apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the contents of use limitations for said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions are ~~the~~ a number of days or times of use allowed for use or ~~the~~ a time period allowed for use.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) The electronic apparatus according to claim 9 further comprising

second storage means for storing the number of days or times said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions has been used in said function executing unit;

said controlling means when requested to execute ~~the function(s)~~ said one or more functions in said function executing unit referencing the contents of use limitations stored in said storage means and said number of days or times of use stored in said second storage means to control the

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function execution in said function executing unit.

Claim 11. (Original) The electronic apparatus according to claim 8 wherein

said transmitting means and the receiving means are a mobile terminal having a wireless communication function and an infrared ray communication function; and wherein

said electronic apparatus includes an infrared light receiving unit for receiving said use-permitting key information acquired by said mobile terminal by wireless transmission from a source of use permission and transmitted by infrared communication.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A function controlling method for controlling ~~the~~ a use of one or more functions ~~owned by~~ of an electronic apparatus, said method comprising the steps of

transmitting ~~the~~ apparatus identifying information for identifying said electronic apparatus and a request for permitting the use of said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions to a source of use permission of said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions to a source of use permission;

receiving the use-permitting key information transmitted from said source of use permission responsive to said request for use permission; and

referencing the contents of use permission for said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions, derived from said use-permitting key information, to control the use of said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) The function controlling method according to claim 12 wherein

the contents of use permission for said functions are ~~the~~ a number of days or times of use allowed or ~~the~~ a time period allowed for use.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) The function controlling method according to claim 13 further comprising a step of

storing the number of days or times of use of said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions;

said ~~controlling~~ referencing step referencing the contents of use permission and the stored number of days or times of use to control the use of said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A function controlling method for controlling the use of one or more functions ~~owned~~ by of an electronic apparatus, said method comprising the steps of

transmitting ~~the~~ an apparatus identifying information,

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identifying the electronic apparatus, and a request for use permission of said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions, to a server as a source of use permission, over a network; and

referencing the use-permitting key information, transmitted from said server responsive to said request for use permission, to control ~~the~~ a use of said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) The function controlling method according to claim 15 wherein

the contents of use limitations for said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions are ~~the~~ a number of days or times of use allowed or ~~the~~ a time period allowed for use.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) The function controlling method according to claim 16 further comprising a step of

storing the number of days or times of actually using said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions;

said controlling step when requested to execute ~~the function(s)~~ said one or more functions referencing the contents of use permission and said stored number of days or times of use to limit the use of said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) The function controlling

method according to claim 15 wherein

said transmitting step transmits said apparatus identifying information and a request for use permission from a mobile terminal having a wireless communication function;

said receiving step receiving the use-permitting key information, transmitted from said server, from said mobile terminal, and transmitting the received use-permitting key information to said electronic apparatus by an infrared ray communication function ~~owned~~ of by said mobile terminal.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling one or more functions ~~owned by~~ of an electronic apparatus, comprising the steps of

receiving ~~the~~ apparatus identifying information for identifying the electronic apparatus and a request for use permission of said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions, transmitted from said electronic apparatus; and

generating the use-permitting key information, responsive to said request for use permission, to send the use-permitting key information generated to said electronic apparatus.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) The method for controlling ~~the function(s)~~ one or more functions according to claim 19 wherein

~~the contents of use limitations~~ use-permitting key

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information for said one or more functions are ~~the~~ a number of days or times of use allowed for use or ~~the~~ a time period allowed for use.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling one or more functions ~~owned by~~ of an electronic apparatus, comprising the steps of

having ~~the~~ apparatus identifying information for identifying the electronic apparatus and a request for use permission of said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions transmitted from a mobile terminal having a wireless communication function, and receiving said information and the request; and

generating use-permitting key information responsive to said contents of use permission to transmit the use-permitting key information to said mobile terminal.

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) The function controlling method according to claim 21 wherein the contents of use permission for said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions are ~~the~~ a number of days or times of use allowed or ~~the~~ a time period allowed for use.

Claim 23. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling one or more functions ~~owned by~~ of an electronic apparatus,

comprising the steps of

transmitting ~~the~~ apparatus identifying information for identifying the electronic apparatus and a request for use permission of said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions over a network to a server as a source of use permission;

said server generating the use-permitting key information for said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions, responsive to said request for use permission, to send the generated use-permitting key information generated to said electronic apparatus; and

said electronic apparatus receiving said use-permitting key information and referencing said use-permitting key information to control ~~the~~ a use of said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions.

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) The method for controlling the ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions according to claim 23 wherein

the contents of use limitations for said one or more functions are ~~the~~ a number of days or times of use allowed or ~~the~~ a time period allowed for use.

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) The method for controlling the ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions according to claim 24 further comprising the step of

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said electronic apparatus storing the number of days or times of using said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions;

said controlling step referencing the contents of use permission or the stored number of days or times of use to control the use of said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions.

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) The method for controlling the ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions according to claim 23 wherein,

in said transmitting step, said apparatus identifying information and the use permission information are transmitted from a mobile terminal having a wireless communication function; and wherein,

in said receiving step, the use permission information, transmitted from said server, is received by said mobile terminal; the use permission information received being transmitted to said electronic apparatus by an infrared ray communication function ~~owned by~~ of said mobile terminal.

Claim 27. (Currently Amended) A server comprising:

key generating means for generating use-permitting key information, controlling one or more functions of an electronic apparatus, responsive to ~~the~~ apparatus identifying information for identifying the electronic apparatus and to a request for use permission of said ~~function(s)~~ owned by one or

more functions of said electronic apparatus; and

a management database for registration of ~~the~~ information concerning said electronic apparatus, inclusive of the apparatus identifying information, contents of use permission and the information indicating the issuing hysteresis of requests for use permission.

Claim 28. A server comprising

means for receiving ~~the~~ apparatus identifying information for identifying an electronic apparatus, and a request for using one or more functions of said electronic apparatus, transmitted from said electronic apparatus, said functions ~~being owned by said electronic apparatus and~~ being those for which use limitations can be set;

key generating means for generating use-permitting key information, controlling said ~~function(s)~~ one or more functions, responsive to said request for use permission; and

means for transmitting the generated use-permitting key information ~~generated~~ to said electronic apparatus.

Claim 29. (Currently Amended) A server comprising

means for having ~~the~~ apparatus identifying information for identifying an electronic apparatus, and a request for use permission of one or more functions of said electronic apparatus, transmitted from a mobile terminal having a

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wireless communication function, and receiving said
information and the request, said one or more functions ~~being~~
~~owned by said electronic apparatus and being such ones~~ those
on which use limitations can be set;

key generating means for generating use-permitting key
information, controlling said ~~function(s)~~ one or more
functions, responsive to said contents of use permission; and

means for transmitting the generated use-permitting key
information to said mobile terminal.